

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 9-11 as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A reclining mechanism for a vehicle seat, comprising:

a first attachment member mounted to a frame structure of a seat cushion of said vehicle seat;

a second attachment member mounted to a frame structure of a back rest of said vehicle seat, said attachment members being coupled with each other at ~~[[an]]~~ outer ~~periphery~~ peripheries of said attachment members and connected by means of a hinge pin for relative rotation about said hinge pin;

a slide pawl slidably mounted within one of said attachment members to be moved toward and away from a ratchet portion on an inner periphery of a remaining attachment member; and

a cam element mounted on said hinge pin in a space between said attachment members and being engaged with said slide pawl for maintaining said slide pawl in engagement with said ratchet portion of said attachment member when said hinge pin is retained in position under load of a torsion spring assembled thereon and for disengaging said slide pawl from said ratchet portion when said hinge pin is rotated against ~~[[said]]~~ the load of said torsion spring;

wherein a thrust member is coupled with one of said attachment members and welded to a frame structure selected from the group consisting of said frame structure of said back rest and said frame structure of said seat cushion to assemble said attachment members ~~[[at]]~~ as a unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The reclining mechanism ~~of Claim 1~~ as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first attachment member is an arm member for attachment to said first frame structure of said seat cushion, and wherein said second attachment member is a disk member coupled within said arm member.

11. (Currently Amended) The reclining mechanism ~~if Claim 10~~ as claimed in claim 10, wherein said torsion spring is contained in a recessed portion formed in said arm member wherein ~~[[said]]~~ an inner end of said torsion spring is engaged with said hinge pin and an outer end of said torsion spring is engaged with an internal wall of said arm member.